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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 2, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLIFF STEARNS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUAM IMMIGRATION BILL AND MAGISTRATE BILL

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation which are important to the people of Guam. Today I am introducing a bill which will significantly impact human rights violations and criminal activity on Guam. During the past year, Guam has experienced a significant influx of Chinese illegal immigrants. Chinese crime syndicates organize boatloads of Chinese to illegally

enter the United States for an exorbitant fee of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per person. After undergoing an arduous journey under fetid, unsanitary conditions, the Chinese reach Guam dehydrated, hungry, disease-ridden and sometimes beaten. Upon arrival, the smuggled Chinese become indentured servants as they attempt to pay their passage to America.

Unlike other streams of illegal immigrants coming into the United States, these immigrants come as a result of a well-organized series of activities organized by crime syndicates. What they do, Mr. Speaker, is they utilize the existing INS regulations, they utilize the INA law in order to apply for political asylum when they arrive on Guam.

Guam's geographical proximity and asylum acceptance regulations make it a prime target for crime syndicates. According to Guam's INS officer in charge, Mr. David Johnston, about 700 illegal Chinese immigrants traveled to Guam last year. Since the beginning of this year alone, 157 have been apprehended by INS, local Guam officials and the U.S. Coast Guard. Since the INS does not have enough funds to detain the Chinese illegal immigrants on Guam, they have proposed to release them to the general populace without assistance. Fortunately, the Government of Guam has offered its already strained resources to detain the illegal aliens until they are ready to be adjudicated.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese crime syndicates have exploited Immigration and Nationality Act asylum regulations for too long. The bill I introduce does three things:

It would prohibit immigrants from applying for political asylum on Guam, an exception from the INA law which is applicable to territories; it would stipulate that the illegal immigrants have to be shipped or deported out of Guam within 30 days; and that the Government of Guam should be compensated

for funds spent on the detention of immigrants pursuant to this act. We must put a stop to this gross offense of human rights and promotion of criminal activities.

Secondarily, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a companion measure introduced in the other body by Senator DANIEL INOUE, S. 184. This legislation permanizes a temporary judgeship in the State of Hawaii and authorizes the addition of another judgeship for the State. It also extends statutory authority for magistrate positions in Guam and the CNMI.

Guam and the CNMI are the only jurisdictions, the only territories, that are not allowed to have additional magistrates, and Guam's district court is ranked number five in terms of its caseload nationwide. We get a lot of cases because of the illegal immigrants, because Guam is a central location. We have opportunities for drug dealers and gun runners to use Guam as a transshipment point. Bankruptcy, tax and civil cases have tripled in 1998.

This is a cost-saving measure. This will allow the Federal judiciary to send an additional magistrate and not send one temporarily, which runs about \$400,000 a year.

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing a very diverse district, probably the most diverse district in the State of Illinois representing part of the City of Chicago and the south suburbs, Cook and Will counties, and a lot of bedroom and rural and farm communities.

When you represent a district as diverse as the one I have the privilege of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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